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EMPLOYING UNIT NO. 8011 WITH THE AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE CONTROL (AEC)

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1. EXPOSURE: BASED ON THE DRASTIC CHANGE IN EXPOSURE DURING THE MISSION, IT APPEARS THAT THE AEC IS NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY: I.E. IF THE AEC WERE OPERATING SATISFACTORILY, THE EXPOSURE SHOULD BE

SECRET

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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UNIFORM THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THE SENSOR IS EITHER NOT WORKING OR IS NOT PROPERLY CALIBRATED. AS A RESULT, CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE EFFECTS OF SOLAR ELEVATION AND LAND/WATER EXPOSURE VARIATION CANNOT BE MADE.

2. IMAGE QUALITY: DUE TO THE SEVERE UNDEREXPOSURE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MISSION, CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE EFFECTS OF STABILIZATION TIME ON IMAGE QUALITY COULD NOT BE ACCURATELY ESTABLISHED.

3. PRINTING AND PROCESSING: ALTHOUGH THE CONTRAST OF THE POSITIVES IS QUITE LOW, THE INTERPRETERS EXPERIENCED NO PROBLEMS

PAGE 4 RUEADJU 0082 S E C R E T

IN READING-OUT THE LAST PORTION OF THE MISSION (WHICH WAS THE CLOSEST TO BEING PROPERLY EXPOSED). HOWEVER, THEY DID COMMENT THAT DETAIL IN THE SHADOW AREAS WAS DIFFICULT TO DETECT.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THE AEC SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED ON OPERATIONAL MISSIONS UNTIL THE PROBLEM AREAS HAVE BEEN DEFINED AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TAKEN.

2. THE STABILIZATION TIME OF 2 HOURS SHOULD BE CONTINUED UNTIL FURTHER ANALYSIS CAN BE CONDUCTED ON MATERIAL THAT IS NOT AFFECTED BY EXPOSURE.

3. NRTSC SHOULD PROCESS ALL FUTURE MISSION MATERIAL WITH THE RESULTS BEING EVALUATED TO DETERMINE IF A SUITABLE CHEMISTRY/FILM COMBINATION (BOTH ORIGINAL AND DUPLICATE) WAS EMPLOYED.

4. THE PROPOSED OPERATIONAL "TEST" TO BE FLOWN AT A PENETRATION SOLAR ELEVATION OF 20 DEGREES SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE NEW PROCESSING CHEMISTRY CAN BE EVALUATED FURTHER.

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END OF MESSAGE